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REPORT

CD NO.

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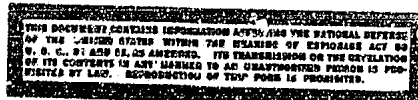
COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
 SUBJECT Political; Economic - Sabotage, trials
 NOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers
 WHERE PUBLISHED Czechoslovakia
 DATE PUBLISHED 27 Apr 1952
 LANGUAGE Czech; Slovak

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

DATE DIST. 24 Aug 1952

NO. OF PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

TRIAL OF CZECHOSLOVAK AGRICULTURAL SABOTEURS

TRY SUBVERTERS OF CZECHOSLOVAK AGRICULTURE -- Prague, Rude Pravo, 27 Apr 52

Since 23 April the state court in Prague has been conducting a trial of a group of eight agricultural subverters, who had been led by an agency of US imperialism.

The first defendant called by the court was Frantisek Topol, a former official and son of a farmer who owned 20 hectares. Topol had begun to form a fifth column in January 1950, together with other malefactors, all recruited from the defunct Agrarian Party. Their aim was the establishment of the "Green International" under the leadership of the traitor Feiersabend and former Agrarian Minister of the Interior Cerny, with the cooperation of the Polish traitor Mikolajczyk. In November 1950, Topol participated in the establishment of the traitorous large-landowner center.

When questioned as to the plans of the "Green International" for the new Europe, Topol said that Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, and Romania would become a federation of central European states and the capital would be Vienna.

He was asked by the prosecutor what they wished to accomplish. Topol answered, "To build up an organization which would protect the interests of manufacturers and all propertied classes. Obviously, the government would be a fascist dictatorship."

The presiding judge asked what methods were necessary to achieve this goal. Topol replied, "Overthrow of the present state institutions, and we also counted upon war between the US and the USSR, which would be brought about by the Americans."

The second defendant was a former official of the National Silver [smiths'] Union, Dr Vlastimil Klima. Together with Knecht [see below] and the others, he joined in the establishment of a traitorous group, recruited from the [unintelligible]

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of the National Democratic Party. This group had the same general aims as Topol's, and Klima provided liaison between them. In regard to the Central-European federation which was planned under the patronage of the US government and the so-called "Green International" originated by Mikolajczyk, Klima said:

"Under the federation, the European countries would be completely beggared, because all industry would be abolished and the countries would become agrarian colonies of the US. Politically, it would mean that the large landowners and business monopolists would be back in power. All central Europe would become an American colony and a background for US industrial expansion."

During the first day's hearing, Engineer Svoboda, Prazak, and Engineer Kohlert testified as to the illegal activities of Topol and Klima.

On Wednesday, 23 April, the third defendant, William Kuehrt, was on the stand. Kuehrt was formerly an important official of the fascist National Unity [Party?]. In 1947, he and the traitor Ursina, were active in promoting the so-called Slovak Democratic Party within the Czech Provinces and in rallying the reactionaries from the parties forbidden by the Kosice government. Kuehrt also testified about the formation of a traitorous group of former National Democrats and its connections with traitors in exile.

The last defendant questioned on this first day was a personal friend of Gajdu, Engr Dr Otakar Capek. He formerly was a joint owner of a large estate (240 hectares of arable land and 500 of forested land), and, as such, an enemy of the workers. At the end of 1950, he welcomed an opportunity to join in a traitorous conspiracy. He made contact with Topol and assisted in the establishment of a large-landholders' center in Prague, and was very active in promoting their fascist program of returning the land to the large landowners. Capek also stated that he held meetings with other village rich and instructed them how to sabotage agricultural production, especially by a whispering campaign against the formation of local JZD.

The last witness heard this day was Dr Vrabek, who testified to the activities of Topol, Capek, and Klima.

Thursday, 24 April, Josef Kostohryz was the first defendant questioned. He was a fanatical fascist, having acquired this conviction when a student in Italy during the First Republic. He was a protege of the traitor Chvalkovsky, then Czechoslovak ambassador to Italy. His experiences in fascist Italy were the basis for his articles in the newspapers Rad and Obnova. In 1948, with the assistance of other clerical fascist intellectuals, he established a traitorous group.

The presiding judge asked Kostohryz the purpose of this organization. Kostohryz replied, "The overthrow of the People's Democratic government." The judge asked, "By what method did you plan to accomplish this?" Kostohryz replied, "By lying propaganda, sabotage, and espionage, but mainly by preparations for a new world war."

The prosecutor then asked him how this fascist ideology would manifest itself, and Kostohryz answered that the group first wanted to do away with nationalization and restore so-called estate organization, patterned on Dolfuss' Austria and Franco's Spain. He said that this could be accomplished only with the assistance of the peasants, and therefore he established contact with the "Green International." He testified that through the office of the former manager of the Italian Cultural Institute in Prague (actually a spy), Giorgi Alberti, he sent out espionage reports and was paid for them. He once sent a memorandum addressed to Pope Pius XII, Truman, Churchill, and De Gasperi, an infamous document in which the traitors openly suggested that an aggressive war be launched against their own country.

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After the questioning of Kostohryz, Jan Opasek, a former abbot of the Brevno cloister, testified to Kostohryz' guilt. Opasek is now serving a sentence. He stated that through his mediation, Kostohryz handed information to a Vatican spy, Father Best, and that Father Best used Opasek's trips to the Vatican as a means of sending out espionage reports.

The next defendant called to the stand was Dr Václav Renc. A fanatical fascist, he was also a writer for the same papers as Kostohryz, the reactionary Rad and Obnova, and in addition was working on the staff of the agrarian weekly, Brazda. During the occupation he wrote favorable articles about Nazi culture.

Renc's questioning brought out the fact that all the subverters were in close touch with an agent of the "Green International," Hrabik, and a clerical fascist ideologist, Pavel Tigríd.

Other witnesses who testified to their fascist plans and subversive activity were Dr Vlk, V. Prokúpek, and V. Jehlička.

The next defendant called was Antonín Chloupek, an old lackey of the large-landowner group and formerly an agrarian representative to the assembly. As far back as 1923, he was president of the agrarian so-called Labor Union, which acted as a strikebreaker for the capitalists. He was the founder of MČZ (Employees' National Central Trade Union) /wartime union controlled by the Nazis/, and for a time he was its president.

After 1945, together with the traitor Nebesky, he tried very hard to re-establish the agrarian party, which was forbidden by the Kosice government. In November 1945, with Nebesky presiding, the first meeting of these large landowners was held. The traitorous worker Jilek was also present. Acting upon the suggestion of former President Benes, the conspirators agreed to support the rightist parties in the elections.

After February 1948, Chloupek joined up with Kepka [see below], and through the agent Monik he also forwarded espionage reports abroad. Chloupek enjoyed the confidence of the traitorous emigres, and hence they appointed him to be the head of the large-landowners group, associated with the "Green International." He received orders for subversive activity from Cerny and other traitors in exile. Chloupek and Kepka gave directions to the village rich to hinder the formation of the JZD and to sabotage agricultural production. Chloupek also admitted that his actions were aimed at the restoration of capitalism, the ruin of Czechoslovak independence, and another world war.

Jan Ursina testified that Chloupek had been negotiating with him about transferring the activity of the Slovak Democratic Party to the Czech Provinces. Ursina was a former member of the government and is a traitor.

Witness Sobotka testified as to Chloupek's connection with the "Green International," and witnesses J. Hřebec and A. Jonak testified as to his subversive activity in the traitorous groups of the village rich.

On Friday, 25 April, the last defendant was called to the stand. He was a professor and an agitator for the Agrarian Party, Josef Kepka. Since 1945 he had been propagandizing subversive activity among the village rich. After February 1948, he and several others turned to sabotage, mainly directed toward the agricultural program. He stated, "We had consultations among ourselves and decided we could do the most damage to the People's Democratic government in the food-supply system. Therefore, we undertook sabotage in crop and animal

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production." The presiding judge asked, "How did you organize this traitorous activity?" Kepka replied, "We used our members as a nucleus and formed little groups of the village rich as our sabotage crews." He also admitted that in case of war these same groups would provide diversions in the rear of the army.

Kepka had escaped the SDB [secret police] and crossed into Austria, where he made contact with the CIC. He described the conditions in the exile camps in West Germany, where the Nazi cutthroats do guard duty and openly talk about their plans for revenge on the Czechoslovaks. He returned as a paid spy, fully trained as an American espionage agent and also as an agent of the "Green International." The hearing easily proved that Kepka was the ringleader of the group and chief organizer of peasant sabotage.

Witnesses Blazek and Svirga testified to Kepka's manner of leaving the country; Hracir and Lukasek testified that he persuaded them to join the conspiracy. Two village rich, Voboril and Podolsky, testified to the methods he used to sabotage animal and crop production.

SENTENCE GROUP OF GREEN INTERNATIONALISTS -- Bratislava, Pravda, 27 Apr 52

On 26 April, the State Court in Prague sentenced all eight members of a group of conspirators against the state, directed by the so-called "Green International."

Josef Kepka received a sentence of death and loss of citizenship; Antonin Chloupek, Frantisek Topol, Dr Eng Otakar Capek, Vilém Knežbert, Dr Vlastimil Klimeš, and Josef Košťálek all were sentenced to life imprisonment; Dr Václav Renc was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

All of the convicted men, in addition to receiving prison sentences, were deprived of all their property and citizenship for life. Dr Renc lost his citizenship for a period of 10 years.

The heavy sentences meted out to these subverters of Czechoslovak agriculture serve as a warning that the Czechoslovak people will not tolerate subversion, destruction, espionage, and terrorist activities.

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